

March 25, 2009

The Honorable Douglas Yates Yongue
NC House of Representatives
16 W. Jones Street, Room 1303
Raleigh, NC 27601-1096

The Honorable Vernon Malone
NC Senate
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 314
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

Dear Representative Yongue and Senator Malone:

This letter serves as the 2008-2009 Report for the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee regarding the Lateral Entry Certificate program available through the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS). The program was initially approved on April 22, 2006. Since then, twenty-nine community colleges have been approved to offer the Lateral Entry Program.

Community colleges have offered the courses from the lateral entry certificate in a variety of ways in order to best meet the needs of the students. Courses have been offered as face-to-face (traditional) classes, on-line classes and hybrid classes. In addition, the courses have been scheduled in a variety of ways including utilizing the entire 16 week semester or in intensive 8 week blocks, as well as utilizing other scheduling options.

The program is only three years old, therefore limited student enrollment data is available. The number of students (149) has tripled since the 2006-2007 academic year. See attached chart for detailed information.

Unfortunately, the community college's lateral entry program is not a seamless one. There are currently nine competencies required to become a lateral entry teacher. Four of the six competencies that community colleges are allowed to offer, can be offered through inservice training by the Local Education Agency (LEA). In addition, although students can meet six of the required competencies at the local community college, they have to complete additional coursework at a senior institution in order to meet all of the required competencies.

Representative Douglas Y. Yongue
Senator Vernon Malone
Page 2
March 25, 2009

NCCCS staff is currently working with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) staff on potential revisions that may need to be made to the NCCCS Lateral Entry curriculum standard and coursework. These revisions would be based upon the DPI lateral entry competencies that are slated for revision in the coming months. These revisions to the DPI competencies for lateral entry are due to the adoption of the 21st Century North Carolina Professional Teaching Standards.

The NCCCS looks forward to working with DPI and the senior institutions in the upcoming year to continue to improve teacher education efforts within our own system and state to assist in further addressing the teacher shortage.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

R. Scott Ralls

RSR/ES/gr
Attachment
c: Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee
Mr. Kennon Briggs
Dr. Delores A. Parker
Dr. Judith C. Mann
Ms. Jennifer Frazelle
Ms. Erin S. Smith

Lateral Entry Student Enrollment Data by College and Semester

Community College	Fall 2006	Spring 2007	Summer 2007	06-07 Annual Totals	Fall 2007	Spring 2008	Summer 2008	07-08 Annual Totals
Beaufort							1	1
Central Piedmont	1	5	12	15	7	21	23	41
Edgecombe						1		1
Gaston					1	4	3	6
Guilford	1	14	17	24	5	20	18	39
Halifax		1		1			1	1
Mitchell			1	1	6	6	4	9
Richmond						1		1
Robeson	1	5	3	6	4	17	2	19
Sandhills						7		7
Southwestern			1	1	1	2		2
Vance-Granville					7	15	6	22
TOTALS *	3	25	34	48	31	94	58	149

*Note: Since the annual data is unduplicated, the semester data will not equal the annual data.
Each student is counted only once for the academic year (fall + spring + summer) in the annual data total, but once per semester for the semester data.